Distress sell of Turmeric

3284. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress sell of the turmeric in Kandhamal district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the distress sell and to protect the interest of farmers in that district who are mostly tribal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Government of Orissa informed that due to bumper production of turmeric in Kandhamal district, the farmers were resorting to distress sale.

In order to help turmeric growers NAFED has purchased 100 MTs of turmeric on commercial basis in this district. In addition, the Government of Orissa was also requested to send a proposal in the prescribed proforma for procurement of turmeric under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). No such proposal has so far been received.

Salinity Problem in Orissa

3285. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal land in Orissa are facing the growing salinity problem;

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the coastal land from salinity;

(c) whether any Central scheme has been launched for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No systematic and scientific study has been taken up to assess the increase in coastal salinity problem in Orissa. However, it is estimated that 2.54 lakh ha. area is affected by coastal salinity in the State.